

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01966 01 OF 02 111530Z

ACTION AF-10

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 1966

FOR IOP/M

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

SUMMARY: THE PARTY-OWNED TIMES OF ZAMBIA ATTACKS RHODESIAN NATIONALIST,

REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE FOR DENOUNCING THE WAR IN HIS COUNTRY
AND CALLS FOR THE DISBANDING OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY AND TRIAL ON
"MURDER CHARGES OF TOP OFFICERS IN ITS RANKS. REV. SITHOLE IS
ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS.
PRINCE BERNHARD OF THE NETHERLANDS ARRIVES IN ZAMBIA FOR GAME
VIEWING. ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAYS THE NEXT SIX MONTHS ARE TO
BE CRUCIAL IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

DETAILS OF THESE AND OTHER REPORTS IN THE LOCAL PRESS FOLLOW:

THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA NEWSPAPER TODAY COMMENTS ON THE RETURN TO
SALISBURY AFTER TWO YEARS OF SELF-IMPOSED EXILE BY RHODESIAN
NATIONALIST THE REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE, AND STRONGLY
CONDEMNS HIM FOR DEMOUNCING VIOLENCE AS A MEANS TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE
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IN RHODESIA.

SAYS THE PAPER: "HE (MR. SITHOLE) SEEMS TO HAVE PULLED THIS SAME
TRICK BEFORE, REPUDIATING VIOLENCE IN EXCHANGE FOR A DUBIOUS
FREEDOM. IF SMITH TURNS AROUND AND LOCKS HIM UP REGARDLESS OF
THEIR 'DEAL', IT WOULD SERVE HIM RIGHT."

"IT IS OUR HOPE," SAYS THE TIMES EDITORIAL, "THAT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE (RHODESIA) WILL REJECT SITHOLE AS THEY REJECTED THE PEARCE COMMISSION; WE ALSO HOPE THAT IF BISHOP MUZOREWA IS PART OF THIS GRAND CONSPIRACY TO SELL ZIMBABWE TO SMITH AND VORSTER, THEY WILL SIMILARLY DUMP HIM."

THE NEWSPAPER ALSO NOTES THAT ATTENTION NOW SEEMS TO BE FOCUSED ON THE ROLE OF "THE SO-CALLED RHODESIAN ARMY" DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE POWER IS FINALLY GRANTED TO "ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS."

"THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS MUST KNOW," SAYS THE EDITORIAL, "THAT THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH THIS FASCIST ARMY COULD PLAY ANY ROLE WHATSOEVER ON THE EVE OF ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE."

"THIS IS A NOTORIOUS ARMY, A RACIST, MURDEROUS ARMY", THE PAPER SAYS.

THE REBEL ARMY, FEELS THE TIMES, "SHOULD BE DISBANDED," THE "MERCENARIES WITHIN ITS RANKS" ROUNDED UP AND TRIED FOR MURDER, AS THEY WERE TRIED IN ANGOLA.

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THIS REMINDER: "BY EVEN SUGGESTING THAT THERE SHOULD BE A ROLE FOR THE PSYCHOPATHS WHO BELONG TO THIS SO-CALLED ARMY, THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS ARE DEMONSTRATING ONCE AGAIN WHY IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY
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IN THEIR ALLEGED 'INITIATIVE'".

THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S VOICE, OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ZAPU, SAYS IN ITS JULY 9 ISSUE THAT IT AGREES "WITH CERTAIN STEPS" SUGGESTED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS THE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE MINORITY TO THE MAJORITY IN RHODESIA.

IN AN EDITORIAL, THE VOICE SAYS HOWEVER DIFFERENCES WITH BRITISH SUGGESTIONS LIE IN THE "TIMING OF THOSE STEPS".

"WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. WE RIGHTLY MAINTAIN THAT AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BE ESTABLISHED BY THE FIGHTING FORCES OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WITH THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION PLAYING NOTHING MORE THAN A CEREMONIAL ROLE IN THE WHOLE EXERCISE," SAYS THE EDITORIAL.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 LUSAKA 1966

IT SAYS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS THE "DECIDING FACTOR" IN FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, ADDING THAT THIS REITERATION OF POSITION DOES NOT MEAN THE FRONT NOW THINKS A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN QUESTION CAN BE FOUND OVER A CONFERENCE TABLE.

" WE HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST HOPE OR FAITH WITH REGARD TO THAT APPROACH. THOSE WISHING TO TALK CAN GO AHEAD BUT SHOULD NOT EXPECT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO SLOW DOWN THE ARMED STRUGGLE. RECOGNITION OF THE FRONT BY THE OAU AS THE SOLE ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT AUGURS VERY WELL FOR THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRUGGLE AND TOTAL VICTORY," CONCLUDES THE VOICE EDITORIAL.

MEANWHILE, REVEREND SITHOLE IS ALLEGED TO BE AT THE CENTER OF A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALLIANCE, ACCORDING TO A FRONT PAGE REPORT IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL.

MR. SITHOLE, ALLEGEDLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY (BOSS) AND THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, IS SAID TO HAVE TRAINED 20 ZIMBABWEANS AND ENGAGED AN UNNAMED WHITE MAN TO "MURDER" TOP LEADERS OF THE FRONT, ESPECIALLY CO-LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO.

THE DAILY MAIL REPORT QUOTES A SPOKESMAN FOR THE (ZAPU) PATRIOTIC FRONT, SAUL NDLOVU, AS SAYING THAT THE FRONT WAS AWARE
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OF SUCH A SCHEME WHICH MR. SITHOLE HAS WORKED OUT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

THE ZAPU OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAID SOON AFTER THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN LONDON, MR. SITHOLE MET THE RHODESIAN CABINET SECRETARY JACK GAYLARD, AT LONDON'S HEATHROW HOTEL AT

WHICH BOTH MEN WORKED OUT AND AGREED ON THE PLOT AGAINST TOP FRONT LEADERS.

"WE KNOW THAT REV. SITHOLE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOME MERCENARIES IN BRITAIN AND IS WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE BOSS TO TRAIN AND EQUIP WOULD-BE ASSASSINS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERSHIP," MR. NDLOVU IS REPORTED AS SAYING.

THE MAIL CARRIES ANOTHER FRONT PAGE STORY QUOTING PRESIDENT KAUNDA AS WARNING THAT THE NEXT SIX MONTHS ARE GOING TO BE "VERY SERIOUS."

SPEAKING IN AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID MARTIN OF THE LONDON OBSERVER, THE ZAMBIAN LEADER'S REMARKS CAME ONLY MINUTES AFTER HE RECEIVED A DETAILED REPORT FROM THE ZAMBIAN ARMY INFORMING HIM THAT FIVE MORE PEOPLE HAD DIED IN TWO INCIDENTS IN THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER AREA BORDERING RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA'S CAPRIVI STRIP.

THREE MEN DIED NEAR SESHEKE WHEN THEIR VEHICLE HIT A LANDMINE, THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS. A LOCAL OFFICIAL WHO WENT TO INVESTIGATE DIED WHEN HE STEPPED ON ANOTHER MINE.

AT CHIRUNDU, THE WIFE OF THE DEPUTY POLICE COMMANDER, DIED FROM INJURIES RECEIVED IN A REPORTED TEN-HOUR BORDER BATTLE BETWEEN RHODESIAN AND ZAMBIAN SECURITY FORCES.

ACCORDING TO THE MAIL, THE ARMY REPORT TO DR. KAUNDA, SAID RHODESIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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TROOPS USED 81MM AND 60MM MORTARS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS AND 7.62MM RIFLES IN THE FIGHT IN WHICH "THOUSANDS OF KWACHA" (ZAMBIAN CURRENCY) WORTH OF AMMUNITION WAS EXCHANGED.

BOTH THE TIMES AND THE MAIL CARRY REPORTS OF THE ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA OF PRINCE BERNHARD OF THE NETHERLANDS TO START AN 18-DAY PRIVATE SAFARI VISIT IN ZAMBIA'S LUANGWA GAME PARK.

PRINCE BERNHARD, WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY HEAD OF THE MILITARY STAFF, COLONEL GEERTSEMA AND A FRIEND, MR. TEEGS GERRITSEN, WAS INVITED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA LAST MONTH WHEN THE LATTER VISITED THE NETHERLANDS.
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